

JOHN AND ELIZABETH
MARSHALL BAIRD



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Belentory, Antrum, Ireland, a son of Robert

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CENTER CREEK BIOGRAPHIES

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and Agnes McGown Baird. The "e" was dropped before they came to America in later years. The Baird's had a large land grant in Ireland, and later moved to Greenock, Scotland, where John became a sergeant on the police force. He married Elizabeth Marshall in 1844. She was born April 14, 1862 in Parkhead, Lanarkshire, Scotland, a daughter of William and Ann Wiley Marshall.

Converted to the LDS Church by missionaries, the Baird's left Liverpool on April 29, 1865 on the ship "Bellwood," a freighter that had been pressed into passenger service. They arrived in Castle Gardens, N. Y., in June of 1865 and moved to Williamsburg, N. Y., to prepare for the journey west. Fourteen months later they traveled in cattle cars to St. Joseph, Mo., went by river boat to Council Bluffs and then purchased a wagon, three yoke of oxen and provisions for the journey. They traveled in the Capt. Chipman company, arriving in Salt Lake City in October of 1866. They moved to Heber in November, 1866, and their last child, Martha Jane, was born in Heber on Feb. 14, 1867.

During the trip across the plains, the two oldest boys, Robert and William, obtained work driving teams and wagons, and so were separated from the rest of the family. During their journey they discovered a buffalo skull on the plains bearing news of the massacre of their family. However, when they arrived later at the Tithing Yard in Salt Lake they were overjoyed to meet their loved ones whom they presumed dead.

The family homesteaded the Baird Ranch in Lake Creek, and then later moved to Hooper, but returned to Lake Creek and Center where John served as a counselor in the bishopric to Bishop Benjamin Cluff. Elizabeth made excellent bread and always furnished bread to the ward to be used in the sacrament service. She was also adept at making clothing, soap, candles, carpets and mattresses, all by hand.

John was active in building roads, bridges reservoirs and irrigation systems in addition to his farming and ranching activities. He moved to Heber in his later years and died there at the age of 80 in 1907. Elizabeth fell on ice in 1905 and broke her hip and died of the mishap on June 14, 1905.

Their children included Robert M., born Nov. 23, 1845; William, born Nov. 3, 1849; Anne C., born Dec. 8, 1851; Elizabeth, born

March 14, 1855; John, born Oct. 2, 1857 and died as an infant; James R., born July 17, 1860; Joseph, born March 7, 1863 and died as an infant; and Martha Jane, born Feb. 14, 1867.



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The Center Creek Story

Through the years, the settlers and residents of Center Creek in eastern Provo Valley have enjoyed abundant living. They have enjoyed a life close to the soil. They have been close to the sun-lit pastures where cattle peacefully graze, and they have been close to the fields where seeds have sprouted and grown to provide food for men. Theirs has been a life of prayer and toil mixed in along each row of seeds sown; of gratitude and thanksgiving with each harvest; and the joy of friends and loved ones close at hand.

Those who first settled the rich, green meadow lands along Center Creek were drawn there by the irrigation water available. Some of these pioneers who built log homes for their families and began clearing the land for farming were Thomas Ross, Joseph Fawcett, Joseph Cluff, James Adams and Jackson Smith.

By early 1861 there were 12 families living along the creek. This soon grew to 20 families, and the population was large enough to organize a branch of the Church. John Harvey moved to the community in 1861 to organize the branch and direct the Church activities. Reports are that the meetings were well attended, with some of the credit undoubtedly going to Ann Harvey who enlivened the meetings by an excellent choir that she trained and directed.

Farming activities in the community continued until 1866 when Indian troubles and the Black Hawk War broke out. The settlers were advised to leave their outlying homes along Center Creek and move closer to the main settlements of Heber. For more than 10 years the lands along Center Creek were uninhabited.

By 1877 the Indian problems were solved and leaders in the valley deemed it safe for those along Center Creek to return to their homes. Many of the original families had become established near Heber City and decided not to return.

Those who were instrumental in reestablishing Center were William Richardson Sr., a Mr. Blancher, Archie Sellers Sr., Joseph Thomas, Benjamin Cluff, George Muir Sr., William Pridey, William Cole, George Hyrum Sweat and Sid Worsley. In 1879 the Worsley homestead was purchased and developed by James Lindsay.

The Center Ward was organized on July 15, 1877 with Benjamin Cluff as Bishop. He chose as his counselors Sidney Worsley and John Harvey. Other counselors who served with Bishop Cluff were John Baird, William Blake and Archibald Richardson.

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A home built from red sandstone by Thomas Phillips in the early days of the Lake Creek area. This photograph was taken of the home in 1910.

the homes in Center Creek, Lake Creek, Heber and even in Salt Lake City. Some of the buildings constructed of the stone were the Stake House and County Court House, the jail and the Central and North Schools, all in Heber. The sand stone was also used for sidewalks and for lining graves.

Lake Creek settlers also had their irrigation water problems as the population began to grow, and on May 2, 1888 the farmers of the area met to formulate plans for an irrigation company. An organizing committee was formed with Robert Broadhead as chairman and Robert Clegg as secretary. By July 6, 1888 the company organization was ready and Mr. Broadhead was elected as the first president. William Lindsay was named secretary with Henry Chatwin as treasurer and John Lee and Henry Clegg as directors.

First stockholders in the company were Henry Clegg, Robert Broadhead, John Lee, Henry Chatwin, James Nash, Elizabeth Nash, a Mrs. Phillips, John Baird, William Baird, James Baird, Robert and William Lindsay, Milton and William Murdoch, Orson Lee, Abram Hatch, Bengt Peterson, Mrs. Elisha Jones, Richard Jones, Thomas Campbell, William Blake, Mrs. William Cole, Eric Erickson, William Priestly, John Lloyd, Nels and Ludwig Anderson, Thomas and William Clegg, William Davis, Rasmus Miller, Rasmus Anderson and Charles W. Giles.

For several years the Lake Creek settlement continued, and separate school and church organizations were developed. However, it was gradually assimilated into the Center Creek development and became part of that community.

Industry in Center Creek has largely centered around farming. However, one of the first sawmills in the valley was constructed in Center Creek Canyon by Henry McMullin, William M. Wall and James Adams.

A general store was opened by William Baxter, who also operated a creamery. He bought milk from the farmers, made it into butter and

Murdock and Bob McKnight were main musicians with William Harvey and William Richardson calling the quadrills.

The Center Creek story would not be complete without mentioning "Pryde's Hall." For the time it was considered very good. (1891) It was built by one of the early settlers of Center. He was a Scotsman, Davie Pryde, and loved by one and all. The hall was used for dancing, theatres, weddings, school and church programs; in later years for basketball. There was a kitchen built along the east side and although it contained only an old kitchen stove, table and some shelves, very delicious dinners were prepared. Two of the main cooks were Mary Mair Lindsay, and Sarah Jane Thompson Lindsay. Many of the early couples were married or held their receptions in this hall. But the most important event was the 25th of January, when all the Scots from far and near gathered to celebrate the birth of their favorite poet, Bobby Burns. The Ritchie's from Charleston, O'Neils from Midway, the Lindsay's, Montgomery's, Fisher's, Turner's, Murdock's and many more gathered to sing and recite and dance. Barbara Dawson would dance the Highland Fling. Jim Lindsay, well versed in Burns, would recite. Andrew Lindsay would sing, "Annie My Scotch Blue Bell" and "Annie Laurie," with the group joining in the chorus. The evening would end with dinner and all singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Even with their busy farming schedules, and with dramatics, dancing, socials and sports events to fill their lives, the people in Center Creek have always found time to devote to their religious duties.

As they first settled the community, they built a chapel in which to worship. John Harvey came to the community to direct the activities of the ward in 1861. Then, in 1877 when the people moved back after the Indian wars, Benjamin Cluff was called to serve as Bishop of the ward. Serving as counselors to Bishop Cluff until his release in 1894 were Sidney Worsley, John Harvey, William Blake, John Baird and Archibald Richardson. Daniel K. Bunnell was clerk.

William Blake became bishop in 1894 and chose as his counselors Alonzo Brim and Richard Harvey. William Priestly was the clerk. They served together until 1898 when Alonzo Brim was called to be the new bishop. His counselors were David W. Smith and Thomas Clegg, with William Priestly continuing as clerk. Thomas Clegg was sustained as the fourth bishop in 1900, and chose as his counselors David W. Smith and William Ryan. Elder Ryan also acted as clerk.

In 1903 David W. Smith was called to be the ward's fifth bishop. His counselors were William Ryan and Hugh W. Harvey. Just one year later, in 1904, Elder Harvey was sustained as the ward's sixth bishop. His counselors at that time were Anton M. Hansen and Charles Jensen. Other counselors included D. Warren Smith, Elmer Mahoney and Bennett Lindsay. Soren C. Christensen served as ward clerk.

During Bishop Harvey's term, the need for a new meeting house was keenly felt. After considerable discussion, it was determined to pur-

No. 2, Joseph Thomas md. (2) 1 July, 1918 @ Marvel Matilda Lay

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ELIZABETH SULSER FOWERS

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In 1917 the family moved to Provo and then to Orem in 1919. Through the years they were active in Church and missionary work. John served in the British Mission from 1922 to 1924 and in California as a missionary from 1925 to 1926.

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